Increase of fees and perks of Jabalpur SECL Councillor

t874. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the basis of 250 per cent increase in the fees and perks of its councillor at Jabalpur in one stroke by SECL in the year 2005, which required CIL's approval;

(b) the reasons for not getting approval from CIL for such a huge increase; and

(c) the justification of 250% increase in one stroke?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (c) There is no such post of Councillor in SECL at Jabalpur. However, the fee of the legal Counsel of SECL at Jabalpur was revised in the year 2005, after a gap of 11 years. The revision of fee was done taking into account all relevant factors, namely, experience, fee being paid to Government advocates engaged by SECL whose expericence and qualifications match with that of the Counsel and fee paid to him by other Public Sector Undertakings. The fee was revised with the approval of Coal India Ltd.

Miners killed at the Nagda mine

875. SHRI T. S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the number of miners killed after being trapped at the Nagda mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. near Katras in Jharkhand;

(b) whether an inquiry into the mishap has been held; if so, the findings thereof and the action taken thereon; and

(c) the extent of *ex-gratia* payment made to the next of kin of the deceased and to those seriously injured in the mishap and the other assistance, if any, given to the affected families?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Fifty workers lost their lives and four received

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reportable injury in the disaster at Nagda mine of Bhatdih colliery, Western Jharia Area in Jharkhand under Bharat Coking Coal Limited (BCCL) occurred on 6.9.2006.

(b) A Court of Enquiry has been constituted by the Govt, of India, Ministry of Labour & Employment, *vide* notification No. S.Q. 1756(E) dated 12.10.06 to inquire into the causes and circumstances of the accident occurred at Nagda Mine of Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) in Jharkhand. The Court of Enquiry is to submit its report within a period of three months and the findings will be known after Court of Enquiry submits its report.

(c) The total amount of compensation paid to each dependents of the deceased varies from Rs. 8.78 lakhs to Rs. 11.06 lakhs depending upon the length of service. This covers payment towards *ex-gratia,* Life Cover, Benevolent Fund, Funeral expenses, Compensation as per Workmens' Compensation Act, 1923 and Gratuity. This also includes additional *ex-gratia* of Rs. 3.00 lakhs to each as announced by Hon'ble Minister of Coal and sanction of Rs. one lakh announced by Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Besides, an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1.00 lakh each from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund has also been sanctioned. Besides, payment of Provident Fund through Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) is being disbursed. Out of 50 deceased, employment to 48 dependents of the deceased workmen had already been given (including two under-aged male dependents have been kept in employment roster and their mothers have been given monetary compensation till they become major). One lady dependent has opted for monetary compensation which will continue till she attains the age of 60 years and one widow will be offered employment pending genunity of her claim.

Abandoning of project by CIL

876. SHRITARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2884 given in the Rajya Sabha on 24th August, 2006 and state:

(a) the circumstances under which the project was conceived and abandoned;